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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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SUBJ: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY--STATEMENT BY LA THANH NGHE

KSR

1. IN INTERVIEW WITH VIET-NAM PRESS, NEWLY-ELECTED DEPUTY LA THANH NGHE STATED THAT HE FAVORS "A COMBINATION OF THE STRENGTH OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM AND THE DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE SUITABLE TO THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY." INTERVIEW PUBLISHED ENGLISH EDITION OF SEPT 23 (EVENING) VIET NAM PRESS.

2. LA THANH NGHE EXPLAINED IN VERY GENERAL TERMS HIS REASONS FOR NOT FAVORING EITHER PURELY PRESIDENTIAL OR "REPRESENTATIVE" (I.E., PARLIAMENTARY) SYSTEMS: "A STRONG PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM MAY LEAD TO DICTATORSHIP IF THE GOVERNMENT LEADER WANTS TO CLING TO POWER...THE PURE REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM MAY CREATE DIVISION AND PARALYZE THE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF THE NATION."

3. NGHE IS FORMER CHAIRMAN OF SAIGON MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND ALSO MEMBER OF PEOPLE'S ARMY COUNCIL.
LODGE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dean Dyer DATE 10/5/81
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